Nimai Teases the Brahmanas and Unmarried Girls at the River Bank

Scene One - In the Courtyard

1st Boy: Nimai, are You going to school?

Nimai: Oh no, my brothers, Father has said that I don't have to study. You also should not go; we will play in the sacred Ganges.

1st Friend: Tell me, Friend, why doesn't Your father allow You to study?

Nimai: My elder brother, Visvarupa, took to the life of a renunciate mendicant; my father is afraid that I might also become a sanyassi, so he does not allow me to go to school. Come let us play!

1st Friend: Are you sure that your father will not thrash us?

Nimai: What? We'll simply stay away from him.

1st Friend: Okay, then.

2nd Friend: Then you give the excuses, Nimai.

Nimai: That's all right, I'll do so; but come let's play the pastimes of Krsna.

Song:
Where is my groves of Vrndavan, My loving mother, Yasoda?
Where is Nanda, my father, My dear brother, the strong Balarama?
Where is fair Shymali, Radhe and my enchanting little flute?
Where shall I find another friend like the cowherd boys, Sridhama and Sudhama.
Where is flowing My Yamuna, whose banks I like to roam?
Vamsivata is dear to Me, that is my real home.
I do not see my beloved gopis, they must be somewhere around
Let Me go look for Radhe; how can I stay alone?

I shall not return here anymore.
Now that I have come in a golden hue
I have left my flute to traverse many lands - a beggar with a bowl.
I shal find what love my Radhe has
I shall not return home anymore.

2nd Boy: Nimai, that was a wonderful song!

Nimai: Boys, boys! Come quickly! I have a plan!

1st Boy: Yes, yes. What is it?

2nd Boy: We're ready!

Nimai: Look at those banana trees, they are full of bananas! Let's steal them!

1st Boy: Yeah!

2nd Boy: Alright, that will be easy!

Nimai: And tonight, when it is dark we can tie the doors of our neighbors on all side with rope and in the morning, when they awaken, they will be locked inside!

1st Boy: Let's go fight with the boys in town!

Nimai: No, I know an old lady who lives near here, let's go and smash all her clay pots!

2nd Boy: Very good! Very good!

Nimai: Then we can splash old men at the Ganges River!
(they exit. music)

Scene Twelve - At the River Bank

1st Brahmana: OOOOOOOOOMMMMMMMMMMMM! OOOOOOOMMMMMMMM!

Nimai: (Jumps up from behind bush and screams loudly!) AAAAAAAHHHH!

1st Brahmana: What was that? Hmmmm! OOOOOOOOOMMMMMMMM! OOOOOOMMMMMM!

Nimai: (Jumps up from behind bush and screams loudly!) AAAAAAAHHHH!

1st Brahmana:OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOMMMMMMMMMMMMM! OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOMMMMMMMMMMMM!

Nimai: (splashes Brahmana and laughs) Ha ha!

1st Brahmana: What? What are you doing? I'm meditating!

Nimai: What is this OM? Chant Hare Krsna! It is unnecessary for you to meditate any longer, Sri Sadhu, as you can see the object of your meditation is now standing before you.

1st Brahmana: You little rascal! I'll teach You!

Nimai: Watch your temper, Sri Sadhu! Remember - you're meditating! Chant Hare Krsna, instead!

1st Brahmana: Chant Hare Krsna, eh? You impudent brat, don't you tell me how to meditate. I'm a dozen years Your elder and if I catch You ... (He starts to chase Nimai.)

Nimai: Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna!

1st Brahmana: Get out of here right now!

Nimai: Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna!
(They run about in a circle then Nimai goes off and 2nd Brahmana enters.)

2nd Brahmana: Hello Sivatma, meditating are you?

1st Brahmana: Well, yes, actually I was ... in fact I was almost merged with the Void when I heard a definite loud OM in response and then He splashed me in the face!

2nd Brahmana: Who?! The Void?

1st Brahmana: No, the boy! The boy!

2nd Brahmana: Ohhhh.

1st Brahmana: Then He demanded that I chant some silly mantra ... what was it? Uhhh ...

Nimai: Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna!

1st Brahmana: Yes, that's it! Hey, that's Him!

2nd Brahmana: Oh, I know that Boy, who could forget that golden hue? That's Jagannath Misra's son. What was His Name? Ah yes, Nimai! He was born on the night of the eclipse some years ago. So He is a nuisance, eh?

1st Brahmana: He certainly is!

2nd Brahmana: (Calling Nimai over) Shame, shame Nimai! Yes, I know Your name and Your father's too. You belong in school, not running up and down the Ganges taunting sadhus who sit to meditate upon Brahman, throwing water in their faces! You are so disrespectful!

Nimai: But, I am full of respect for those worthy of it - the Ganges, the Holy Scriptures and Krsna's Holy Name, therefore I respectfully request you to Chant Hare Krsna!
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare!
(Nimai runs off)

1st Brahmana: There He goes again! I think that the boy is stark, raving mad! The eclipse of the sun on the day He was born has had some effect on Him, I'm sure of it.

2nd Brahmana: Yes, someone should be informed. His father is both a scholar and a well respected man of Navadvip. It is indeed unfortunate that one should have such a crazy one for a son. I sympathize!

1st Brahmana: In any case, I'll chase Him away! Get out of here, You unmanageable wretch! Go on, scram ! Get out of here!

Nimai: Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
(The 1st Brahmana chases Nimai off stage.)

2nd Brahmana: "Ah, such is the age, from the sorrow and strife the Holy Ganges is not exempt. A carnival of demons is abrew, those who conquer passion are too few."

1st Brahmana: There (whew) I gave that Golden Rascal a good chase, even at my age. He won't be coming back soon, thank God!

2nd Brahmana: Sivatma, you should restrain yourself. Stress is not good for a man of your age.

Both: Let's meditate! OOOOOOMMMMMMM! OOOOOOOMMMMMM!

Nimai: (Jumps up from behind bush and screams loudly!) AAAAAAAHHHH!

2nd Brahmana: Oh no He's back!

Nimai: Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna!

1st Brahmana: This is too much!

2nd Brahmana: You better run, You rascal!

Nimai: (Jumps up from bush and screams loudly!) AAAAAAAHHHH!
Both: OH, NO!

Nimai: Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna!

2nd Brahmana: This is too much!

1st Brahmana: I don't believe it! You better run right now!

Nimai: Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna!

2nd Brahmana: You should be arrested!

Nimai: Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna!

2nd Brahmana: Catch Him!

1st Brahmana: Get out of here! Get out of here!
(They chase Nimai off stage.

Scene Thirteen - Disturbing the Young Girls

(Nimai and His friends approach a group of young girls engaged in a religious ceremony.)

Narrator: It was the common practice in Nimai's village for the unmarried girls to worship Lord Siva in hopes of getting a good husband. While they were engaged in their worship young Nimai would come there with His friends and sit among them. Addressing the girls, the Lord would say:

Nimai: My dear sisters, please give Me all the offerings you have brought for Lord Siva. The Ganges and the Goddess Durga are My maidservants. Even Lord Siva is My servant.
(Nimai picks up garland and puts it on.)

1st Girl: Dear Nimai, You are just like our brother in our village relationship, therefore You should not act like this!
(Nimai grabs the plate of sweets and starts to eat them.The boys laugh. The girls are horrified.)

2nd Girl: Don't take our paraphernalia for worship!

3rd Girl: Don't create a disturbance in this way! I will go to Your mother, You know!

Nimai: My dear sisters, if you give Me all the offerings you have brought for Lord Siva, I will give you the benediction that your husbands will be very handsome. They will be clever, learned and young. Not only that, but will each of you will have seven sons and great wealth! (The girls smile shyly but externally they rebuke the Lord under the pretense of anger.)

1st Girl: We do not believe You! Let's go!
(The girls quickly gather up the paraphernalia to leave.)

2nd Girl: What benediction can You give, anyway!?

Nimai: If you are miserly and do not give Me all the offerings, then every one of you will have an old husband and at least four co-wives!!

Narrator: Hearing this supposed curse by Nimai, the girls considered that He might know something uncommon or be empowered by the demigods. Since they were afraid that His curse might be effective, they brought the offerings before Nimai who ate then blessed the girls to obtain their heart's wishes.

1st Girl: Here, Nimai, take these sweets.

Nimai: You will beget seven sons and your larder will be filled with rich harvest. All your sons will be well educated. (to 2nd Girl) Why don't you give us something, too?

2nd Girl: Be away with you! Don't make mischief. I am making this offering to Lord Siva!

Nimai: So, you're not going to give to the brahmanas? You will have to share your husband with four co-wives!

2nd Girl: No no no, don't curse me, Nimai! Here take this.

Nimai: Okay, then! You also will have seven sons who will study the Vedas. All of you listen - I am Visnu; whatever offerings you have brought should be given to Me. If I eat, then your worship is successful. (to friends) Here, my dear brothers, you should also take your share.
(Nimai takes the foodstuffs and distributes them to His friends and starts to leave.)

1st Girl: Are You not going to eat anything at all?

Nimai: You carry on, I will get more for Myself.

2nd Girl: Shameless! He has snatched away our offerings again!

1st Girl: No girl can resist Nimai's glances!

2nd Girl: Nimai has spoiled our puja for today, anyway. Here Nimai, tell me if you like this fruit salad I have prepared.
(Nimai eats and eats, passing some remnants to the other boys.)

3rd Girl: Please lie down here in the shade and I will fan You!
(Music)

Nimai: Everyone chant Hari Bol! Hari Bol!

1st Girl: (pointing at 2nd Girl) Say, Nimai, what sort of husband will she have?

Nimai: I don't know, what does she have to offer?

1st Girl: Here, take her offerings.

Nimai: No, she does not even sing Hari Bol, I will not take her offering.

1st Girl: Just see this girl's beautiful face - how do You like her? Do You want to marry her?

Nimai: (to 2nd Girl) Laksmi, let me hear how you chant Hari Bol.

Laksmi: Hari Bol, Hari Bol. But, I will not part with this offering, too.

Nimai: I do not want it. (to others) She is not giving Me her offering so I am going away.

Laksmi: No, no, just wait. We will all sing and dance for You!
(Nimai and His friends leave. The girls talk excited amongst themselves until Jagannath Misra enters.)

Scene Fourteen

Brahmana: Oooommmmmmmmm
(Nimai snatches the offering of the Brahmana.)

Brahmana: What!? Put that back, it is for Visnu!

Nimai: Lord Visnu eats through the brahmanas. By feeding Me, you will be able to reach Vaikuntha, the Spiritual Abode of Lord Visnu.

Brahmana: Impudent brat! Do You want a thrashing?

Nimai: Let's see you catch Me. You cannot even race Me to the water's edge!

Brahmana: Rather, if You take the Deity's offering before it is prasad, You will be destroyed.

Nimai: No, you will be destroyed!
(Nimai runs back to His friends. They all run off the stage, then Nimai returns alone.)

Nimai: Oh Me, alone at last! Flow on Mother Ganges - what fools sit upon your banks today? What silly, boy crazed girls with their offerings? What pompous old men holding their breath and for what? So they may (in a pompous voice) "float upon the moon like a balloon" or pop! Ha Ha! Oh how they meditate! I think I would pop if all I had to do was sit around each day shouting "OOOOMMM!" Ha Ha! How can anyone think of anything else but Govinda? How can they even breathe without saying His Name - Krsna! Krsna! Krsna!?
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
(Music)

Scene Fifteen - The Unmarried Girls

1st Girl: He likes you, Laksmi, I know He does!

Laksmi: And I want to marry Him, too. I will put away all my paraphernalia for worshipping Lord Siva and simply wait for Nimai to finish His schooling.
(Jagannath Misra enters.)

Misra: Excuse me, but have you seen my Nimai by the river?

1st Girl: Why, He just left, sir. He was snatching and eating all our offerings to Lord Siva.

Misra: What! Eating the offerings? Which way did that naughty boy go?

1st Girl: No no, do not scold Him! How could He possibly force us if we did not want to give our offerings to Him?

2nd Girl: Everyone loves Nimai, so!

Misra: I know, I know, but it is my duty to chastise Him! Otherwise, how will He learn what is right and what is wrong? Good day, young ladies!
(He hurries on and meets the Brahmana.)

Brahmana: Jagannath Misra, how can I describe your great fortune? What an extra-ordinary personality your son is! It is beyond my capacity to understand! I was offering oblation to Lord Visnu when Nimai came and grabbed it from me! Angrily, I chased after a running Nimai but suddenly I heard the most wonderful sound of dancing ankle bells! But He had no ankle bells! I thought that I was mistaken, but then I noticed His footprints on the soft earth. The marks of flag, lightning and a cowherd's goad could be clearly seen - I stood for a moment stunned. Visnu or a great personality has appeared do not chastise Him!

Misra: A real wonder! It is so difficult to know what to do. Everyone speaks of Nimai in this way; I cannot understand the reason. I know Him only as my son. His mother also speaks about hearing ankle bells … could it be?